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W A R T I M E E X T E N S I O N W O R K

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS
BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Developments in the farm labor program hold the center of the stage in this week's summary.

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HAWAII
May 3, 1943

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm labor.— Plans being made to meet coffee labor problems for harvest season in Kona. Student help was used last year and may be used again. Survey made of needs for student or other coffee pickers.

Farm machinery.— Survey being made of farmers' equipment needs for next 12 months in connection with WPB plan for control of materials. Farm agents list requests for plows, tractors, planters, sprayers, and other equipment needed by commercial food producers except sugar and pineapple plantations. Farmers urged to consider needs carefully, and hold requests to minimum.

Foods and nutrition.— Neighborhood leaders emphasizing use of whole-grain cereals in family diet. One leader reported 75 out of 86 families in her community had adopted practice of including some whole-grain food in diet every day.

Home agent in Kauai accompanied representatives of Red Cross Canteen Service on tour of island to visit school cafeteria managers and make arrangements for mass feeding in case of enemy attack.

University extension clubs giving lessons in preparing simple desserts, meal planning, and vegetable cooking and preservation. Vegetable plates featured at demonstration meetings to show housewives how to combine number of vegetables to make nourishing dish. Stress laid on eating more vegetables and canning surplus.

Victory Gardens.— Neighborhood leaders finding out what vegetables and fruits families are growing, and urging them to plant plenty of green and yellow vegetables; encouraging homemakers to plant bananas for both cooking and eating, and guava and papaya trees to help provide year-round fruit supply.

Practically every one of 1,500 4-H Club boys enrolled in Territory is taking part in one or more extension food production projects.

TENNESSEE

June 1, 1943

Farm labor.— Two extension regional State meetings of county farm and home agents to explain farm-labor program held in mid-May. Spot survey indicates no serious farm labor shortage in State. Principal need will be for emergency labor to harvest strawberries; peas, beans, and tomatoes for canneries; hay and grain; and to cultivate and pick cotton. Sufficient labor — school boys and girls, town and city workers not regularly employed, and other workers who can spare time from regular jobs -- expected to be recruited within most counties to meet demand.

Two types of workers will need some special training before taking jobs on farms: (1) Those seeking, or assigned to, special jobs like dairying; (2) city school boys and girls who have never had farm experience. University of Tennessee College of Agriculture has held one training school for prospective dairy workers; now has under way a 6 week course in general farm work for city high school students. Arrangements expected to be made with teachers of vocational agriculture to do some training of inexperienced youths who desire to do farm work, but most of training will be done by farmers employing such help.

Most workers harvesting special crops, such as strawberries, peaches, potatoes tomatoes, and beans, will be transported by farm operators. In some instances school busses will be used. Workers from other States will be transported under supervision of U. S. Employment Service.

State farm labor specialist and four assistant district agents in farm labor work appointed. Assistants will be located under direct supervision of four State agricultural district agents. In counties where farm labor need is acute, special assistant county agents will be employed to handle program. Some of these will be assigned to group of counties. County agent's office will be farm labor placement center in each county. Secretary-clerk will handle details of program.

State Farm Labor Committee, formerly composed of representatives of various State and Federal agencies and farm organizations, has been reorganized and enlarged to include six leading farmers from different areas of State, and representatives of State Bankers' Association, State Department of Education, State Chamber of Commerce, and Office of Defense Transportation. A farmer is chairman of committee, and State Director of Extension is secretary. Only farmer members and others not employed by Federal agencies have voting privileges.

County committees being reorganized on same general plan as State committee, with county agent as secretary. State and county committees will give general guidance to program under supervision of State Extension Service.

Valuable service rendered by 15,000 voluntary Victory Community Committeemen in informing farmers on labor situation and encouraging neighborhood exchange of labor and machinery. Fullest cooperation given by home demonstration and 4-H Club members, Future Farmers, Boy Scouts, farm organizations, bankers, city and town civic groups, newspapers, and radio stations.

Extension Service conducting educational and informational work on labor program in each county and area of State according to need. News stories, radio programs, posters, advertising, and all other informational aids will be fully utilized in support of program throughout season.

Job training demonstrations will be held for farmers wherever needed. Agents and special farm labor workers will help farmers in analyzing farm jobs, devising short cuts, job simplification, removal of work hazards, and farm planning.

Strawberry crop, largely harvested in May, was reduced by late freezes to such extent that labor supply was sufficient in most areas. Where there was a shortage of pickers women, boys, and girls took to fields by scores and met situation. In one area USES, at direction of Extension Service, recruited and transported some 2,500 pickers from adjoining counties, cities, and towns.

Feed situation.- After regional meeting in Atlanta, called by USDA, Director Brehm appointed committee of college and extension crop and livestock specialists to draft program for meeting feed situation. Committee is making State-wide survey in cooperation with feed mills, dealers, and farm organizations and expects to have definite production and conservation program under way in all counties at early date.

State Feed Council composed of farmers, millmen, and feed handlers to be set up to aid in distribution and conservation of feeds. Extension has issued 100,000 copies of leaflet on emergency feed production. Intensive informational campaign being carried on through press and radio.

Home food supply.- Reports of agents show 400,000 to 500,000 Victory Gardens planted. Over 200,000 farm families are enrolled in Home Food Supply Program.

4-H Clubs.- More than a million pounds of pork and beef contributed to Food-for-Freedom program by approximately 1,000 4-H Club members in fat cattle and pig shows and sales since first of year. All counties emphasizing 4-H food production projects -- gardening, poultry, dairy, pig, beef, lamb, potatoes, and other essential war crops. Enrollment now 83,000, increase of 6,000 over 1942. Canning, clothing, and cooking projects also stressed in girls' clubs.

Community Victory Committeemen.- Over 15,000 leading farmers and farm women, serving as Community Victory Committeemen (neighborhood leaders), are giving invaluable service in assisting agents in promoting Victory Gardens, production of war crops, collection of scrap and fats, rationing, price control, sale of war bonds and stamps, and meeting farm labor, machinery, and feed shortages.

Household conservation.- Home demonstration and agricultural engineering specialists completed series of 9 district training schools for extension agents and leaders in repair and conservation of household equipment--stoves, washing machines, sewing machines, refrigerators and other electrical equipment. Agents and leaders will follow up with county and community schools. Extension Service issuing 32-page illustrated bulletin on simple repairs and conservation of home equipment in support of program.

Clothing repair and conservation emphasized in all home demonstration clubs and meetings conducted by agents. Series of training schools for agents and leaders held earlier in year. Over 350 steam-pressure cookers have been tested and checked by home demonstration specialists at county clinics.

